FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 JULY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio 3 July announced that Iranian forces entered Iraqi territory in the Mehran sector during further offensive operations the previous night, stating that the Iranians captured four heights inside Iraq and two Iraqi border posts southwest of Mehran. Iranian forces now "directly overlook" townships inside Iraq. The communique added that Iran has killed or wounded 4,100 Iraqis, taken over 1,000 POW's, and captured more than 65 tanks in the course of the Mehran offensive. Another communique carried by the radio claimed successes in the Al-Faw sector, stating that the Iranian Navy captured three "advanced enemy naval vessels" on the far side of the Khawr 'Abdallah early 3 July, while Iranian troops killed more than 250 Iraqis during a "limited penetration operation" in the 'Umm Qasr region.

For Iraq's part, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio described the Iraqi withdrawal from Mehran as "orderly" and affirmed that Iran suffered "enormous losses" during the "fierce fighting" in that sector. The Iraqi communique also announced that two Iranian F-5 aircraft were shot down in the Mehran sector 2 July, while an Iranian communique cited by IRNA stated that an Iraqi plane was downed by Iranian antiaircraft fire further north.

An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi planes raided the Iranian telecommunications station at Asadabad the evening of 2 July. The raid was confirmed by IRNA, which noted that it inflicted damage and disrupted Iran's communications with foreign countries. Iraqi planes also attacked Khark Island 3 July, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio.

Libya-Yemens

YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih departed Libya 2 July at the end of the Libya-YAR-PDRY summit, according to Tripoli radio. In a statement cited by the radio, President Salih said his "sincerely friendly and fraternal" talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi focused on steps for achieving Arab unity and he noted that his meeting with PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas provided the opportunity for "more serious work" toward Yemeni reunification. Al-'Attas subsequently lauded his "sincere and brotherly" talks with Al-Qadhdhafi and stated that his meeting with Salih was of "great importance" for the progress of Yemeni reunification, according to JANA.

Lebanon

The release of U.S. hostage Steven John Donahue was announced by Radio Monte Carlo, which said Donahue was released at the U.S. Embassy in East Beirut 2 July after being held captive by drug traffickers for 22 months. Donahue claimed that he was an informer for the DEA.

As for the internal situation, Beirut radio announced that Lebanese of all denominations participated in a general strike 3 July to protest the high cost of living and the "wave of starvation." On the Christian side, the Lebanese Forces expressed support for the strike in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, deploring the government's failure to deal with the economic crisis and urging the formation of a new government of "politicians and technocrats" to take emergency measures. The statement expressed concern about rapidly rising prices, scarcities, "unreasonable" and "artificial" fluctuations in the value of the Lebanese pound, rising unemployment and poverty, and government overspending. It also stressed that the Lebanese Forces are ready to hand over public utilities and ports under their control to the state.

Beirut radio said the security situation in and around the Palestinian camps was noticeably calm 2 July, disclosing that a UNRWA convoy entered Burj al-Barajinah carrying food and medical supplies. In southern Lebanon, Syrian paratroopers were withdrawn from Mashgharah, which they entered 15 June to quell factional fighting, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

Israel

Likud ministers stated that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir would be prepared to hold early elections over the Shin Bet affair, Jerusalem television reported, noting that Shamir's media adviser said the High Court's decision is a new factor which necessitates "new considerations." Meanwhile, the Shinuy movement announced its decision to withdraw from the coalition unless an inquiry is held into the Shin Bet affair, according to Jerusalem radio.

In the FRG, the Munich prosecutor confirmed *Stern*'s report that police are investigating an arms deal between Israelis and Iran, Jerusalem radio noted. Asked about the issue during a Jerusalem television interview, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that the Israeli authorities "are not involved" in the affair, while Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel cannot be held responsible for deals made by private individuals. For Iran's part, Tehran radio denied the report by "a discredited German magazine" that Iran is purchasing arms from Israel.

Sudan

SPLA forces killed 147 government troops 25 June in two battles in Terakeka District, according to the clandestine SPLA radio, which cited correspondents as saying that the district was under full control of the SPLA.

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Keshtmand Addresses Jowzjan Workers
LD021458 Kabul Domestic Servicer in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, yesterday visited Jowzjan Province.

On his arrival in Jowzjan Province, the chairman of the Council of Ministers was welcomed by the head of the northern zone, the secretary of the provincial party committee, the chairman of the executive committee of the Jowzjan delegates' council, and other provincial officials. A number of the pioneers of Jowzjan also welcomed him presenting bouquets of flowers.

On this visit to Jowzjan Province Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand was accompanied by Comrades Muhammad Aziz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee; Major General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, minister of interior; Nazar Muhammad, minister of construction affairs; Najibullah Masir, minister of mines and industry; and Farid Ahmad Mazdak, first secretary of the Democratic Youth of Afghanistan Central Committee. They visited the Jarqoduq natural gas refinery.

During this visit to the refinery officials gave a briefing to the chairman of the Council of Ministers. At the end of this visit the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers took part in a meeting of workers of the Jarqoduq installation and during his conversation he expressed appreciation for the work and activities of the pioneers of Jargoguq refinery -- a large enterprise and a shining manifestation of Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation. He drew their attention to future important duties.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand and his entourage then took part in a session of party and government activists from Jowzjan Province. Over 400 members of the leadership, cadres, and activists of the Jowzjan Provincial Party Committee and of social organizations from this province took part in this session.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers shed light on the important duties arising from the recent 16th, 17th, and 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenums and he explained the concrete demand of the above plenums resolutions under present circumstances.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers said: The 16th, 17th, and 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenums have proved that the revolutionary process is continuously developing in our country and in the PDPA on the basis of an all-round analysis of experience gained, and is further refining and perfecting the methods of its work.

The broadening and consolidation of the social pillars of national sovereignty, the active struggle to end the bloodshed and restore peace and tranquillity, and the inspiration of the patriotic and democratic forces of our country toward cooperation are all duties which had been raised at the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and then emphasized and perfected at the 17th and 18th plenums.

During the months following the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum [as heard] the activities of all party and government organs were devoted to carrying out the tasks set in the recent Central Committee plenums.

The guideline for the basic stages of the DRA's socioeconomic development plan for 1986-1990 which was approved at the 17th PDPA Central Committee Plenum and then discussed in various collectives, is regarded as a major event in the life of our country.

Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added: It was emphasized in the 18th plenum that organizational and political work in all party and government organs in the capital and localities should be carried out using modern methods. Employees at all levels should work actively and practically. In view of the increasing problems of the socioeconomic and political development of the country and its international activities, one person alone cannot perform duties in key posts.

It was firmly required that the various issues facing the party and government should be solved on the principle of collectivism and without delay. For this reason the plenum decided that the work scope of the senior party and government officials should be determined and specified. [sentence as heard]

The chairman of the Council of Ministers said: The 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum reflected the unity, maturity, and wisdom of the party, its unity around the Central Committee, the political maturity of the leadership cadres, and the preparedness of party members and of all the people to continue the tasks of the April Revolution.

I hope those attending this gathering perceive the principled decisions of the party and can explain this to all members of the party. The objective process of growth of the life of our party and of all Afghan society requires that such a decision to be made. [as heard]

Comrade Keshtmand added: Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, said in his recent speech delivered at the Kabul City Party Committee plenum: An analysis of the situation reveals that our major defect is the absence of firm action. Most of our work and plans remain on paper. The party committees have the ability to convey to the people the envisaged plans. However, they do not have the ability to implement them and this creates a gap between word and deed. This is also true regarding the work of your party organization.

Our duty is to be men of action and the party is the revolutionary operator of us all. We should carry out intensive work to implement what has been envisaged. The power of the government lies in implementing what has been envisaged. The role of a party organization and of government organs should be assessed not only from the view point of their effectiveness and ability to plan duties, but also from the view point of their ability to carry these duties out.

We should secure the unity of the people in an honorable, just, and principled manner. Securing revolutionary unity, patriotism, and cohesion around the party and its Central Committee is our duty. [Words indistinct] in the completion of party and political

work in the party organizations of Jowzjan Province must be commenced, and each member of the party must fulfill his role in this respect. As I mentioned before, the nature of the issue is that we should move from the office to the people and from the words to actions.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers said: Once again I must point to the decisions of the 18th plenum. This plenum had to be convened; the convocation of this plenum is a manifestation of our party's power. The 18th plenum was convened at a high organizational level; and it is a fact that one out of every three members of the party's Central Committee delivered a speech at this plenum and all issues raised were approved unanimously.

Now the convocation of the 19th plenum is before us. Important party and government organizational issues will be resolved. With your permission I am confident that the party members and all toilers of Jowzjan Province will not spare any effort to implement the party plans.

At the end of his speech of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Delegates' Council of Jowzjan Province, and a worker from the Gas and Petroleum Exploration Enterprise, delivered speeches, and, on behalf of those taking part in the session, expressed their readiness to better accomplish the duties in accordance with the demands of the party and the revolutionary government.

Keshtmand Chairs Commission on Local Elections

LD021846 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] The session of the government commission on preparation and convocation of the election of local organs of the state administration and power -- whose chairman is Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers -- convened today at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers.

At the beginning Sayyed Nasim Mayhanparast, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, read a report on the circumstances of the implementation of the joint resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Council of Ministers, on the results of the first stage of the election of the local organs of the state power and administration and the subsequent duties in this respect.

The report states: In accordance with the plan, the election in two stages was completed in 16 provinces and in Kabul city, and is underway in Khowst Major-District.

During the second stage, elections have recently been ended in Jowzjan, Konduz, Baghlan, Farah, Helmand, Faryab, Samangan, Takhar and Paktia Provinces; and the preparatory work for election in the remaining 13 provinces has been completed.

Therefore, the elections of the local organs will be completed in all provinces of the country by 6 August.

The BIA correspondent adds that the draft of the resolution on the report presented to the session and the (?chart) for the convocation of election was approved after the expression of a series of views and proposals by the members of the commission.

Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand then spoke about the importance and [words indistinct] convocation of elections which will be broadcast at 2100 by Radio Afghanistan.

Spokesman on Purpose of Gandhi's Mauritius Visit

BK021258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] India is extending two more credits of 5 crore rupees each to Mauritius. One will be on a government-to-government basis and the other through the Export-Import Bank. Agreements for the credit will be signed in Port Louis during the prime minister's, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, 2-day visit to Maruritius beginning on Friday [4 July]. India had earlier given a total credit of 30 crore rupees to Mauritius.

Dr J.S. Teja, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, who briefed newsmen about the visit, said India regards an independent and stable Mauritius to be of great importance to peace in the strategic Indian Ocean region. We want a strong relationship with that country and all its people, not only for historical reasons, but also because of its vital position just off the African coast in the Indian Ocean which has become an area of tension.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's talks with the Mauritius prime minister, Mr Ancerood Jugnauth, will cover measures to further strengthen bilateral relations.

They will also exchange views on the entire gamut of international developments in the region, especially southern Africa and the Indian Ocean and the coming mini-Commonwealth summit in London and the nonaligned summit at Harare.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's engagements include an address to the Mauritius National Assembly. He will also be accorded a civic reception.

The external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shanker, who will be accompanying the prime minister, will inaugurate a children's film festival during the visit.

The ministers of state, Mr Eduardo Faleiro and P. Chidambaram, and two members of Parliament, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azda, and Mr Tariq Anwar, will also accompany the prime minister besides senior officials.

Mr Gandhi will return to New Delhi on Sunday morning.

Gandhi Hopes To Reverse Migration From Punjab

BK020904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] The prime minister has hoped that migrants of the minority community from Punjab will go back to their homes. Talking to intellectuals in Calcutta last night before leaving for New Delhi, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the migration of a minority community is a serious problem and its ramifications are grave. He said the government has taken steps to restore the confidence of the minorities and provide them security.

Outlining the government's broad approach in dealing with the terrorists, Mr Gandhi said hard-core terrorists will have to be separated from the rest. He also called upon the political parties to act in a responsible manner.

Mr Gandhi lauded the Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, for showing tremendous courage in a very difficult situation. He said Mr Barnala had risen to the occasion having faced dissidents in his own party on the one hand and challenge from the terrorists on the other hand.

The prime minister said the implementation of the Assam accord is going on all right. The influx into Assam has to be solved politically and socially, and the government is working in that direction, he added.

Continuing Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

Militant Sikh Requests UN Forces

BK021345 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 2 Jun 86

[By Harminder Singh Nanda]

[Text] Chandigarh, India, July 2 (AFP) — Underground militant Sikh leader Harinder Singh Kahlon Wednesday called for United Nations forces to be deployed in the Punjab to stop the indiscriminate killing of Sikhs.

Mr. Kahlon, who heads the most militant and strongest faction of the All India Sikh Students' Federation and who is wanted on sedition charges, was speaking to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from a hideout in Patiala District in his first interview since going underground early this year.

"We demand the deployment of neutral forces of the United Nations organisation in Punjab as the Indian government's central reserve police force and border security forces are indiscriminately killing innocent Sikhs in fake police encounters," he said.

Shops and banks had opened normally Wednesday for the first time since June 21, when the curfew was clamped down after Sikh-Hindu clashes.

"The Indian Government is doing its best to eliminate the Sikh identity," Mr. Kahlon, a former schoolteacher, said. "We have been dragged into such a corner that we have to demand a separate nation for Sikhs — Khalistan. We had never demanded Khalistan, but this Hindu chauvinist government of India has compelled us to seek Khalistan," he said.

In recent weeks allegations of "fake encounters" staged by security forces have grown as a crackdown has been attempted following calls from central government to stop the daily killings in Punjab. Most of the dead have been Hindus killed by Sikh extremists, according to police reports.

Fifty people have been killed — Sikhs, Hindus and security men — across the northern state in the last 13 days. On Wednesday a crude bomb was thrown in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar when a 12-day curfew was relaxed for seven hours. Eyewitness reports from Armitsar said Hindu militants of the Shiv Sena, (Lord Shiva's army) threw the bomb into a Sikh photographer's studio. No one was reported hurt.

Mr. Kahlon, who supports violence as a means to achieving Khalistan, said: "Most of the victims are police informers, but sometimes innocent persons are also killed — we are not in favour of that."

He accused the government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the state's Sikh administration of Surjit Singh Barnala of "harassing the common Sikhs and their womenfolk in Punjab."

"Policemen burn their crops and tease their women. We are a proud community," he said, "how can we tolerate this nonsense."

Mr. Kahlon has been wanted on sedition charges since January 26 when he called for the formation of Khalistan in a speech from within the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine.

The All India Sikh Students' Federation, which is split into two factions with the same ideology but loyalties to different leaders, is often described as the sword-arm of Sikh militancy.

Many of its members were among the 650 who officially died in the Golden Temple supporting the last stand of the firebrand militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale when the Indian army stormed the shrine in June 1985.

Unofficially, about 1,000 died when the army ousted the militants who had used the temple as a haven from which to organise attacks.

'Terrorists' on Defensive

BK021609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr S.S. Barnala, met Mr Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi today. He apprised Mr Gandhi of the law and order situation in the border districts of the state.

Meanwhile, the Punjab director general of police, Mr Ribeiro, says streamlining of security arrangements in the border districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur has helped in restoring confidence among the people and raising the morale of the police forces.

He also told the All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent that pressure has been mounted on the terrorists who have now gone defensive.

He said additional forces requisitioned from the Center have been fully deployed and supplied with a communication system.

7 Killed in Ferozepore District

BK030322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jul 86

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons were killed in two separate incidents of terrorist activity in Ferozepore District since last evening.

Six persons were killed near village Chak Sonia under Mamdot police station last evening. Five of the victims were traveling in a car on Guru Harsahay Road when some jeep-borne terrorists in khaki uniform came from the opposite side and opened fire on the car, killing all the five occupants.

The terrorists also killed a cyclist who passed that way. After the crime, the terrorists escaped in the jeep and the car of the victims after throwing their bodies out.

Senior police officials immediately rushed to the spot and have launched a massive manhunt for the culprits. Police and paramilitary forces in the neighboring districts have been alerted.

In the second incident, one person was shot dead by some suspected terrorists in village Gulamiwali near Malanwala police station early this morning. The victim was sleeping in his house when he was attacked.

Libya Offered Cooperation in Industry, Trade

BK021617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] India has offered to cooperate with Libya in some new areas of industry, trade, and commerce. The offer was made at the India-Libyan joint commission meeting which began in New Delhi today. The industry minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and the Libyan minister for industry, Hasan 'Abd al-'Ati al-Bargash, are the cochairmen of the commission.

Both the ministers said the relations between the two countries have a long tradition of close cooperation in political, cultural, and economic fields. They felt that the joint commission plays an important role in furthering bilateral cooperation.

Mr Tiwari also said that as fellow members of the Nonaligned Movement, India and Libya are committed to the cause of creating a more equitable world order. He assured that the Indian organizations will provide whatever best is available in assisting Libya in its construction program.

NEPAL

Further Reportage on Visit of Pakistani President

Feted by King Birendra

BK020353 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Speaking at a banquet last night [in Katmandu], President Ershad reiterated that Nepal-Bangladesh relations have been growing steadily as between two close and friendly neighbors with genuine understanding and goodwill for each other.

King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev hosted the banquet in his honor at the Narayanahity Royal Palace.

The president said apart from geographical proximity, our two peoples are bound together by the ties of tradition, culture and history that have survived through centuries. He strongly believes that the friendly ties between their two countries will have an added meaning only if the scope of cooperation can be widened for maximum mutual advantage and benefit.

The Bangladeshi leader expressed satisfaction that during the past years the two countries have been able to foster a mutually beneficial bilateral relation.

Describing the formal launching of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] as a most significant development in the region, President Ershad said South Asia had been a region without the framework of regional cooperation, and the concept of SAARC could be materialized by the collective efforts of all the countries of the region. Once the basis (?is completed), the region can hope to begin a more dynamic phase of cooperation which would yield more tangible and readily visible benefits for the people of the region.

Reviewing the international situation, the Bangladeshi president expressed his concern at the rapid escalation of international tension endangering world peace and security. He said the situation in Afghanistan and Cambodia and the growth of great power rivalry in the Indian Ocean have a direct bearing upon the region. He referred to the tragic conflict between Iran and Iraq and Israel's continued acts of aggression in West Asia as matters of deep concern.

Commending the proposal to declare Nepal as a zone of peace, President Ershad described the move as a significant one toward peace and stability.

Earlier in his welcome speech, King Birendra said the visit of President Ershad to Nepal will contribute to further strengthening the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

King Birendra further said Bangladesh and Nepal are not merely neighbors. The enduring ties between them have been strengthened by the life-giving waters of the perennial rivers that flow through them. He said, in fact, we have no doubt that the geographical affinity of the land between the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean has united us.

Referring to the founding of SAARC over 6 months ago, he recalled the personal contributions of the Bangladesh president to lead the formation of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The king said let us prove by deeds that SAARC is indeed a microcosm of the world community working for peace and prosperity for their people.

Holds Talks With King

BK021624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Excerpts] Formal talks between President Ershad and King Birendra of Nepal were held in Katmandu today. The two leaders met exclusively without any aides for about 90 minutes.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and his Nepalese counterpart, Shailendra Kumar Upadhaya, met separately. They were assisted by their foreign secretaries.

The Bangladesh ambassador to Nepal and the Nepalese ambassador to Bangladesh were present.

Our special representative Abdul Hai, reporting from Katmandu, says the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and covered international issues and matters of bilateral interest.

The two foreign ministers were of the view that SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] may now explore the possibility of moving into concrete operational progress. The activities among SAARC countries should be coordinated.

It was decided that the Bangladesh-Nepal joint economic commission will meet in Katmandu in September next. They agreed that the joint venture projects in [words indistinct] pharmaceuticals, jute carpet, and cement should be completed soon.

The two foreign ministers stressed the need for diversification of trade between the two countries.

Earlier, President Ershad placed wreath at the martyrs' memorial in the city center in Katmandu. In the afternoon, a civic reception was held in honor of President Ershad. Addressing the reception, the president called for enduring and truly meaningful relationship between Nepal and Bangladesh. He said such a relationship already exists in large measure. It flows from many affinities of culture, history, and tradition that have brought the people of the two countries to each other over the centuries.

The president said SAARC has now added another dimension to this relationship and has given our people a common regional identity.

The president highly spoke of the proud and upright people of Nepal striving hard under the leadership of the king for the economic development. He conveyed the friendly greetings and good wishes of the people of Bangladesh to the people of Nepal, in particular to the citizens of Katmandu.

PAKISTAN

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 2 Jul

BK030516 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jul 86

[Text] Japan attaches great importance to friendship with Pakistan, as it has played a constructive role for peace and stability in the region. This was stated by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinichi Yanai while talking to newsmen after his arrival in Islamabad yesterday. He is leading his country's delegation to the third session of the Pakistan-Japan joint commission that begins in the federal capital today. He said the two countries hold identical views on a number of international issues. Moreover, Pakistan has been a major contributor to the progress of the two countries in the economic and political spheres. He hoped that the joint commission meeting will prove constructive and useful.

Yanai said that he has brought many proposals to be discussed at the meeting and this will help enhance the cooperation between Pakistan and Japan.

Karachi Details Mujahidin Actions in Zabol, Qandahar

BK021533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down one helicopter gunship and damaged another in Zabol Province. The helicopters were bombarding mujahidin positions in this area. Earlier, the mujahidin launched a sudden attack on a military convoy and killed a number of Soviet-Kabul soldiers.

Another report says the mujahidin also killed eight military personnel in their attack on a Qandahar city administration office. The mujahidin also captured arms and ammunition which were left behind by the troops guarding this office.

SRI LANKA

Cabinet Discusses Proposals; Violence Continues

NC021811 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 2 (AFP) — The Sri Lanka cabinet Wednesday discussed details of proposals by President Junius Jayewardene to set up provincial councils in a bid to end the country's ethnic conflict, a cabinet spokesman said.

Earlier, official sources said that four Tamil separatists and a civilian had been killed in the latest violence in a conflict that has claimed more than 1,800 lives in the past 18 months.

Mr. Jayewardene told Wednesday's meeting that he was prepared to discuss his autonomy proposals with recognised political parties and groups of individuals, cabinet spokesman Anandatissa de Alwis told newsmen.

The president also indicated that the 1,000-member Executive Committee of the governing United National Party (UNP) would meet soon to discuss the peace proposals fully. The proposals envisage the setting up of councils headed by a chief minister with the aim of giving Tamils a greater share in the administration of their areas.

A section of the island's 2.5 million Tamil population is fighting for autonomy in the north and east, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Mr. Jayewardene told the cabinet meeting that there were "many items in the peace proposals that could be easily adjusted," Mr. de Alwis said.

The cabinet also appointed two senior ministers, Cultural Affairs Minister Edwin Hurulle and Agriculture and Food Minister Gamini Jayasuriya to explain the proposals to Buddhist monks.

If the proposals are to achieve any degree of success, the consent of the powerful Buddhist clergy will be needed, political sources said.

After the cabinet meeting, Mr. Jayewardene started discussions with individual political parties to assess their views on his provincial autonomy proposals, which he first presented a week ago at the start of a Political Parties Conference (PPC).

President Jayewardene had invited 14 recognised political parties to attend the PPC to discuss the measures taken so far to solve the Tamil question.

Two parties, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the main opposition group, and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, did not attend the meeting.

The SLFP met with President Jayewardene separately after the conference, while the TULF had still not decided what it should do, well-informed sources said.

One of the parties due to meet Mr. Jayewardene Wednesday was the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC), representing mainly Tamil plantation workers of Indian origin, which is seeking clarification of the new proposals, CWC sources said.

The SLFP was also due Wednesday to discuss the PPC and the proposals, sources said.

Meanwhile, there were fresh reports of violence Wednesday, with news that four Tamil separatists and a civilian had been killed in clashes Tuesday.

Two separatists and a civilian were killed in an exchange of fire between soldiers and separatists near the Kaithadi Bridge in the northern Jaffna District Tuesday, the National Security Ministry said. It said the troops suffered no casualties.

The bridge was damaged, making the Colombo-Jaffna road unusable, after Tamil separatists opened fire on a reconnaissance helicopter and the helicopter fired back, blowing up the sep-

aratists' vehicle, informed sources said. The vehicle was apparently carrying explosives, judging by the extent of the damage, the sources added.

Two separatists were reported killed and three soldiers wounded Tuesday in eastern Batticaloa District after an army convoy was hit by a landmine laid by suspected Tamil separatists, informed sources said Wednesday.

Continuing Reportage on Clashes With Tamils

Casualties in North

BK021124 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] A Sri Lankan Navy patrol boat on a routine mission spotted a number of boats about 2 miles off Pesalai today. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the boats were signalled to stop and warning shots were fired as they were sailing within the prohibited area. The Navy could not pursue the boat as the sea was rough.

Later on security sources learned that 15 people have admitted themselves to the Mannar hospital with injuries. Two of them succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. Another seven people whose condition was serious were flown to the Anuradhapura hospital by security forces on a mercy mission. One of them also died later. Investigations are now underway.

In another development, three soldiers were slightly wounded and one terrorist who had two hand grenades with him was killed at Vakaneri in the eastern province of Sri Lanka yesterday. The terrorist had exploded a home-made device as the troops passed the spot. The troops returned fire killing one terrorist.

Further Reportage on Mehran Operation, Other Clashes

Iraqi Border Positions Attacked

GF021531 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1522 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O martyr-nurturing ummah, O brave and combatant Iranian nation, please pay attention to a report we have just received. According to the latest dispatch from Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for the Joint Operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave warriors of Islam, having liberated the city of Mehran and in continuation of the second phase of the victorious "Karbala'-1" operations, at noon today managed to move forward deep into the positions of the defeated Iraqi Army. They destroyed the enemy forces on the border strip, inflicting heavy casualties. We will inform you of the latest victories of the warriors of Islam as soon as we receive further information from the "Karbala'-1" theater of operation.

With the assistance of God, victory is at hand.

Iraqi Brigade 'Decimated'

GF021546 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1537 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpts] During the course of the victorious operations the armies of Islam are currently establishing themselves in the captured areas and the sensitive heights in the region and continue their heavy battle in order to further destroy the enemy forces. The 501st Iraqi Infantry Brigade has been decimated by 50 percent and hundreds of its members have been annihilated. Reports concerning the victories of the army of Islam in the battles this afternoon will be broadcast as soon as they are received.

With the assistance of God, victory is at hand.

Border Posts 'Liberated'

GF021607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1556 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O you good-seeking ummah of Islam, O heroic and combatant Iranian nation, please pay attention to a report we have just received concerning the victories of your brave sons, fearless people.

According to the latest report from Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ, the center for the Joint Operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave warriors of the Islamic revolution, having liberated the city of Mehran and its environs this noon in continuation of the second phase of the victorious "Karbala'-1" operations, have succeeded in furthering their progress in the Mehran theater of operations with reliance on the Almighty's help and have liberated Farrokhabad and (Dorrajeh) border posts and brought them under their complete control.

Those seeking the way to the Karbala' of Hoseyn have established themselves in the captured areas and have managed to annihilate a large number of the enemy forces, and wounded and captured others. Thus the statistics of losses for the defeated Iraqi army now exceed 3,000. Over 600 Iraqi prisoners from this victorious operation have been taken behind the fronts. The ceaseless battle continues of the infidel-fighters of the army of monotheism to capture the sensitive heights of the Mehran border region.

Communique No 2,519

LD022058 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi positions in Mehran at 0800 and 0845 (0930 and 0515 GMT) Wednesday [2 July], inflicting heavy losses on them, according to a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique number 2519 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim Combatants targeted on an Iraqi war plane in Piranshahr, West Azarbayjan Province, and brought it down inside Iraqi territory.

Exchange of artillery fire in northwestern fronts was more intense in Hajj 'Umran during which Iraqi forces sustained casualties, said the communique.

An Iraqi patrol unit in Eynkhosh and a vehicle column in Chazzabeh of the southern frontline subjected to heavy Iranian shelling. [sentence as received]

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic opened fire on Iraqi positions and fortifications in Bayat and Zobeydat destroying 10 gun emplacements, two loaders and [number indistinct] (?command) vehicle, 25 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the area.

The city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province was under sporadic fire of Iraqi forces Tuesday, the communique concluded.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD021754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Communique No 4 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the combined operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was issued tonight as follows:

In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. O God-seeking Islamic nation! O heroic nation! The heroic and mighty combatants of the monotheistic army, while continuing the second phase of Operation "Karbala-1" and following the liberation of Mehran this afternoon, advanced toward the rest of the

predetermined objectives. After smashing the enemy's positions, they succeeded in inflicting further heavy losses and casualties on him. After killing or wounding another 1,000 enemy troops, Islam's mighty forces succeeded in increasing enemy casualties in Operation "Karbala-1" to 3,500 and in capturing another 200 troops of the Iraqi Zionist regime, thereby making the number of enemy POW's evacuated so far 920.

The hamlets of Firuzabad, Farrokhabad, Farrokhabad post, (Dorrajah) post and Heights Nos 215, 227, 225, and 250 in Gholami, Heights Nos 227, 237, 235, and 272 in Reza Abad, and the extremely important strategic Ghalavizan Heights, which totally dominate Dasht-e Mehran and which have been under enemy occupation since the beginning of the imposed war, have been liberated by Islam's combatants. Islam's glorious banner was raised on these sensitive heights by our stouthearted troops.

During these operations so far, 70 enemy tanks and APC's have been destroyed by the fire of anti-armor units of the Islamic forces, and 65 tanks and APC's, including 30 T-59's, have been captured intact by our combatants.

Furthermore, apart from the 705th and 443d Brigades, the 7th Armored Brigade, 66th Brigade, and the 1st Commando Brigade were 100 percent destroyed; the 417th Brigade was 70 percent destroyed; the General Staff's Commando Brigade by 80 percent; the 65th Special Forces Brigade by 70 percent; and the 59th Brigade by 50 percent.

Islam's victorious combatants, who have achieved these remarkable victories thanks to their reliance on divine blessings, and succor, are continuing to strengthen and consolidate the captured positions with the backing of the benevolent prayers of the illustrious imam and of the heroic, God-seeking, Islamic nation.

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the Combined Operational Center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IRGC

Iraq Damages Communications Station

LD022056 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes attacked a communication station in outskirts of Hamadan at 18:55 hours local time (15:25 GMT) Wednesday. Two were martyred and several others wounded as a result of the attack. Damage were inflicted on the installations. Communications with foreign countries face disruptions but experts are repairing the damage.

Positions Around Mehran Consolidated

NC030535 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Jul 86

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for Joint Operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, has reported that the victorious fighters of the "Karbala-1" operation, in continuation of the third phase of this drive which has already led to the liberation of Mehran and the strategic Ghalavizan Heights, succeeded last night in establishing full control over these areas and strengthening their positions. They carried out a series of engineering and mopping-up operations, scoring spectacular victories.

According to the same information, another 200 members of the Zionist enemy forces were either killed or wounded during last night's actions by the fighters of Islam in the Mehran border region. This brings the number of casualties suffered by the Armed Forces of the Iraqi aggressors in the "Karbala-1" operation to more than 3,700.

'Val-Fajr-8' Operations Detailed

LD031134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jul 86

[Unnumbered communique issued 3 July by Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for Joint Operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces, on "Val-Fajr-8" operations]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O God-seeking ummah of Islam, O combative and self-sacrificing people of Iran. At the same time as the shining victories of the forces of monotheism in the "Karbala-1" operational theater, which led to the liberation of Mehran and the border heights in that strategic sector, the combatants of Islam in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater have created epics.

Last night and today, in a limited penetration operation in the Umm Qasr region, they inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, killing more than 250 troops of the defeated Iraqi army, setting on fire several vehicles, a mechanical shovel, and three loaders, shooting down a helicopter, and killing all its crew.

Last night, the heavy coastal artillery fire of the Guards Corps' Navy set the Al-Bakr and al-Ummayyah jetties on fire. The smoke from the fires at these two Iraqi jetties and the enemy positions within them can still be seen in the area.

During a combat-patrol operation in the early hours of this morning in the "Val-Fajr-8" operation waters, Guards Corps Navy combatants captured intact three advanced enemy naval vessels on the other side of Khawr 'Abdullah, killing all their crews during the clash.

During a successful naval transport operation last night and today, a large Army-Navy convoy of the forces of Islam was safely transported from a sector in the Persian Gulf to the Arvand River and then to the strategic port of Al-Faw by the heroic and self-sacrificing Guards Corps Navy personnel.

With God's help victory is nigh. Glad tidings for the faithful.

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, Center of Joint Operations of the Guards Corps and Armed Forces

Heights Taken; 4,100 Iraqi Casualities

LD031137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jul 86

[Communique No 5 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Continue killing them until there is no sedition and this is all for the sake of God. [Koranic verse] O you brave ummah of Islam, O you zealous nation, your valiant sons, these marchers of Husayn's Karbala', in continuation of the third phase of "Karbala'-1" operations last night, in the course of two series of mopping-up and engineering operations, while consolidating their newly captured positions, succeeded in attacking the enemy positions and capturing Heights 170, 190, 150, 165, and 197 of the Islamic homeland and also Heights 215, 200, 212, and 183 inside Iraqi territory. They also liberated the southwestern regions of Mehran, including the Iraqi posts of Tahan and Muhammad Qasim. After fully cleansing these regions, the forces of Islam now directly overlook the townships of Badrah, Warmehraz, Zurbatiyah, Husayn Khalil, Bani 'Aqabah, and Al-Yasin.

In the course of last night's operations, 600 more enemy troops were either killed or wounded and a group were taken prisoner by the forces of Islam, bringing over 4,100 the total number of the enemy dead and wounded and 1,010 the total number of prisoners captured by the forces of Islam during the three phases of the victorious "Karbala-1" operations which led to Mehran's liberation. The combatants of Islam also captured intact more than 65 tanks while destroying 70 enemy tanks and personnel carriers and setting dozens of enemy vehicles ablaze.

Thanks to the liberation of a series of heights in the region, including the important and strategic Qalawizan Heights and several villages and posts in the Mehran sector, the following enemy units were destroyed by the percentages given: The 705th and 343d Brigades and the 1st Commando Brigade, the 70th Armored Brigade and the 66th Commando Brigade by 100 percent; the 417th Brigade by 70 percent; the Commando Brigade of the General Staff by 80 percent; the 65th Brigade of the Special Forces by 70 percent; the 59th Brigade by 50 percent; the 501st Infantry Brigade by 50 percent; the Commando Battalion of the 40th Division by 80 percent; four battalions of the Special Munition [Mohemmat-e Khasseh] by 80 percent; the 228th, 53d and 247th Artillery Battalions by 50 percent each; and the 6th Anti-Armored Missile Battalion by 40 percent. The warriors of Islam also captured intact dozens of various artillery and countless numbers of light- and medium-weight weapons of the enemy.

Thanks to these fully successful operations which inflicted heavy losses and casualities on the enemy, the criminal enemy suffered another disgraceful defeat, and by crushing the new strategy of Saddam's helpless regime, the forces of Islam have destroyed the enemy's capability for further operations and have made the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy regret any aggression against our Islamic homeland.

The mighty warriors of Islam, after their remarkable victories which were realized with undiminishing succor of Almighty God, are currently positioned in their captured positions and are consolidating and strengthening them and are defending the liberated regions.

The Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ expresses its gratitude to all the devoted dear and selfless combatants, particularly the zealous popular forces, the Karbala' marchers convoys, the Reconstruction Jihad workers, the fast-flying pilots of the airborne division, the IRI's Air Force, doctors, health and relief workers, and all those dear ones who fought side by side to bring another victory to the revolution and to the Islamic homeland.

Ground Forces Commander's Message

LD021841 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Following the victorious "Karbala'-1" operation and the liberation of the city of Mehran, a message of congratulations was sent by Mr 'Ali Shamkhani, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, to the commander of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the esteemed commander of Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters: Once again revelations of divine succor, in the form of the latest victory scored by Islam's combatants, have been manifested to the warrior and brave Islamic nation of Iran and God Almighty, alone, who succored Islam's zealous combatants in liberating Khorramshahr and Al-Faw, attained the liberation of Mehran, too, by the hands of the selfless combatants of the Guards Corps and thereby once again inflicted the bitter taste of defeat on Islam's sworn enemies who daily strive to hatch a new plot against our nation.

Islam's combatants, by humbly congratulating our illustrious imam and the martyr-nurturing Islamic nation and Your Excellency in connection with this great victory, hereby proclaim that they are determined to continue to merit God's mercy and blessings over the battlefronts and to themselves by continuing the series of Karbala' operations, in which operation "Karbala'-1" they were victorious. They have delivered a powerful body blow to the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime and they shall not rest until the liberation of lofty Husaynite Karbala' from the oppression and iniquity of the oppressors and the Yazidites ruling over Baghdad.

Here, by humbly extending the congratulations of all the justice-seeking Islamic combatants to the lofty presence of the supreme commander in chief, Imam Khomeyni, and expressing their gratitude for the nightly prayers and the divine presence of the illustrious imam, who has been a source of strength to monotheistic armies, we once again expect an extensive presence by the Hezbollahi Islamic nation on the arenas of defending Islam, the revolution and the Islamic homeland.

We hope for and rely on God almighty's succor and the extensive presence by the Hezbollahi Islamic nation — and there is no victory except through Allah, the glorious, the wise.

[Signed] 'Ali Shamkhani, Commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Cabinet Discusses Mehran Victory, OPEC Meeting

LD021529 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — Iranian Cabinet Wednesday discussed the recapturing of the town of Mehran from Iraqi occupation army after a three day battle that left thousands of Iraqi casualties.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said the military advance was a heavy defeat for the Iraqi regime who had vowed to keep the town and exchange it for Iraqi areas now in Iranian position.

Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn "Should know that this war will only end with the victory of the Islamic combatants" of Iran, the prime minister said. He said the Iranian victory in Mehran and other sectors of the 1,200 kms war front will repeat themselves in the future. The town of Mehran was captured by Iraqi forces 17 May but fell into the control of the Islamic Combatants of Iran Wednesday.

Initially war broke out in September 1980 when Iraqi army attacked Iranian soil with the hope of extending its coast with the open sea and damaging the newly found Islamic Republic in Iran.

The cabinet also discussed latest developments in the world oil markets and the oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, reported on last week's ministerial meeting of the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Islamic Republic of Iran is an OPEC member.

The oil minister said the decision of several OPEC members to increase production despite low prices had political motivations and was supported by the United States. Iran has continuously condemned the arrogant (super) powers for conspiracy to glut the world oil market and bring down prices at the cost of developing oil exporting countries.

Oil Minister Discusses New Oil Terminal

LD022157 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 2 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — The use of the Val-Fajr-2 oil terminal near Larak Island in the Persian Gulf is part of the policy of the Islamic Republic to diversify its export terminals, said Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Wednesday.

Speaking at a press conference Aqazadeh said the terminal is a small part of Iranian loading possibilities. "We own several loading stations from western regions of the Persian Gulf up to the Hormuz Strait that can be used under different situations" he said.

The minister said the Val-Fajr-2 oil terminal is similar to that of Sirri Island and that the use of the terminal will not cause closure of other loading stations.

Commentary on GCC Foreign Ministers' Statement

GF021030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Commentary by the research group of the Central News Unit: "The Conclusion of the GCC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Al-Ta'if"]

[Excerpts] A statement was issued at the conclusion of the GCC foreign ministers' meeting [in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia]. It dealt with and commented on current regional issues and those involving the GCC. The most important part of this statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting deals with the war between Iran and Iraq. It has condemned what it has termed Iran's insistence on continuing the war and the fact that Iran has not given a positive reply to those efforts that have so far been made to bring the war to an end.

According to political circles, the recent position taken by the GCC differs greatly with that taken by the GCC heads of state in the middle of last December in Muscat. At that time the GCC, for the first time, only asked that Iran and Iraq end the war. Following that meeting there was talk about the Omani foreign minister traveling to Iran and Iraq.

When Foreign Minister Velayati went to Riyadh and then to Abu Dhabi in reply to a visit to Tehran by Sa'ud al-Faysal [Saudi foreign minister], it seemed a new era in relations between the GCC and the Islamic Republic of Iran had begun. This was an indication of some realistic thinking among the GCC members. But when Iraq refused to meet Iran's demands to end the war and following the Islamic warriors' warning and operations which liberated and took the Al-Faw peninsula during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, the GCC foreign ministers accused Iran during one of their regular meetings of disrupting peace in the region through its threats. The GCC then threatened to use its "Peninsula Shield" forces if necessary -- a clear case of blackmail.

The position taken by the [GCC] heads of state before the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, keeping in mind the positions taken later, clearly stated that unfortunately the GCC has not made an effort to get closer to the truth. Rather, it was trying to weaken the will of the forces of Islam which were starting operations, later called "Val-Fajr-8." This occurred at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran had not made the slightest threat against GCC members. On the contrary, by sending messages for example to the Government of Kuwait, Iran was reassuring them.

In any case, the latest position taken by the GCC shows that unfortunately its members, despite the fact that the war has been going on for several years, have not been able to recognize their rightful positions in the region. Perhaps in no war in the world can one find a country like Iran which has been so patient with the supporters and backers of its enemy. The GCC has backed the Iraqi regime since the start of the imposed war and has used its financial, political, and public relations' might to help Baghdad. Even now, by selling oil from the neutral zone on Iraq's behalf, it is showing itself as an active supporter of Iraq.

On the other side of the coin, the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite its vast power and might which has been proven to the whole world during 5 years of war and resistance, has never shown any type of reaction and has always strived to better its relations with GCC members. Despite this the GCC has been influenced by Western propaganda about an expansion of the imposed war and is scared. They have forgotten the fact that at the start of the war, because they were sure that Iraq would not be defeated, they remained silent about the aggression and extended financial help. But after a while, when the Islamic warriors managed to turn the war in their favor, the GCC suddenly brought up the subject of the expansion of the war.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has stressed many times that it does not want to expand the war and it has repeated many times that it is not pleased with the continuation of the war but that it has to crush the aggressor and discourage any grounds for later aggressions. Therefore, it has to continue the war until just conditions are achieved.

With regard to the war of tankers in the Persian Gulf, while everyone in the world knows that Iraq started this, the GCC only says that the attack on tankers should stop. This fear of condemning the real aggressor in the war at sea and on land is precisely what has caused the war to drag on, because the Islamic Republic of Iran has placed as its first condition for ending the war a condemnation of the Saddam regime as the aggressor and the prime perpetrator of the war.

Commentary Views Results of Recent OPEC Session

LD011326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday the OPEC oil ministers ended their summer session in Yugoslavia. At the conclusion of the session, a majority of the members agreed on a 17.6 million barrels per day ceiling for the current year, which would ultimately result in an increase of $5 per barrel.

As chairman of the recent session, the Nigerian oil minister said that the proposed production and price are a temporary plan, and that as long as all countries fail to reach an agreement on individual quotas, the plan would fall short of implementation. The final statement issued at the end of the session says that the 13 OPEC member countries' oil ministers will return to their respective countries in order to consult with senior officials. The statement adds that another extraordinary OPEC session will meet again next month.

In this session, the three countries of Iran, Algeria and Libya demanded the lowering of production ceiling and an immediate restoration of the former $28 per barrel level. Having this in mind, our country's oil minister, prior to his departure from Yugoslavia, said: Although Iran opposes in principle the $17-19 per barrel, nevertheless it is prepared to accept this as an initial step toward reaching $28 per barrel, so that prices reach the previous level within 6 months — namely, $28 per barrel.

Commenting on the production ceiling, he said: The daily production ceiling of 16 million barrels, considering the seasonal changes, is a logical figure for OPEC.

According to the final statement issued, it was agreed that such issues as a price scale and OPEC relations with the oil-producing and oil-exporting countries, as well as the consumer countries, will be determined within the framework of a long-term strategy by a committee to include Iran, Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. In view of the fact that it was agreed that this committee should begin its work as soon as possible, the stands taken by our country's would serve as a clear signpost as far as OPEC's interests are concerned. On the other hand, should the majority of the members persist in maintaining their present situation, then, by forfeiting part of their revenues, which could increase their economic strength, they would further involve themselves in international economic complications.

Alleged Arms Deal With Israel Denied

LD021631 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Excerpts] The title of today's first political commentary is "The Successful Karbala-1 Operations." The infidel-breaking warriors of Islam, in continuation of their proud victories, during the early hours of Tuesday morning launched the new operations of "Karbala-1" in the Mehran sector. Thanks to Almighty succor, during the first moments of these operations, our combatants crossed countless barriers and inflicted considerable heavy losses on Iraq's Ba'thist-Zionist forces, who had been taken by surprise, and hoisted the proud flag of Islam in the liberated areas.

The objective of these new operations is to bring the war nearer to its end by preparing the grounds for the collapse of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad and the restoration of peace and security in the region. In this connection, the Majlis speaker and the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, in a speech during today's open session of the Islamic Majlis, said: "Our forces are delivering blows to the Iraqi Army which are a prelude to final defeat of the disintegrating Iraqi Armed Forces." Therefore, it must be said that the "Karbala'-1" operations have no other objective but to return peace and stability to the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly declared its hatred of continued war and bloodshed. Alas, this desire of the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq will not materialize unless through removal of the Ba'th party from Iraq's political arena.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought the realization of its demand that restoration of peace will not be possible unless the roots of the aggressor are burned to ashes. All high-ranking authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have said it again and again that we are unhappy with the continuation of the war and, as our country's president said: "Continuation of the imposed war serves the interests of U.S. imperialism" and it was for the sake of serving goals of imperialism and global arrogance that the hireling Saddam was encouraged to impose the war on the newly established Islamic Republic in order to prevent lawful expansion of the Islamic revolution. The Muslim nation of Iran thus believes that by maintaining such an aggressive and repulsive element as

Saddam, there is no possibility of restoring order and a lasting peace. Reliable reports received from the battlefront indicate that lack of motive for continuation of the war and daily sacrifices given for the sake of sinister desires of the miserable commander of Qadisiyah, have deteriorated the already low morale of the Iraqi soldiers. On the other hand, the Iraqi Ba'thist Armed Forces are confused and remain in a state of constant painful alert, thanks to the extensive departure of our combat-expert forces to strengthen the battlefront. They have no idea when and from which direction the future crushing blows will come. The interesting point that in every sensitive moment of the war, global arrogance and the imperialist mass media, in order to over shadow the victories of our combatants and mislead the world Muslims, resort to their old and pointless scenario. An example of such rubbish is the claim that Iran is buying weapons from Israel. It is in this connection that we see the foreign radios, along with informing the Iraqi regime's masters of that regime's heavy defeat in the Mehran sector, suddenly quote a discredited German magazine as their top news that Iran is purchasing arms from Israel. However, propagandists of these radios and their bosses are well aware that they cannot extinguish God's light by resorting to such tricks. The light of God is shining over the world and dawn of Muslims' victory against arrogants has began. Today, even the most gullible individuals realize that the repeated victories of the combatants of Islam are inflicting frightening blows on the Zionist regime and the victory of the forces of Islam in this war will be a giant step towards the liberation of Jerusalem.

Khamene'i Meets Afghan Clerics, Discusses Struggle

GF020658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Text] A group of Shi'ite and Sunni clergy from Afghanistan, together with members of Islamic groups from Afghanistan, met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. During their meeting Mr Khamene'i talked about the common views shared by the peoples of Iran and Afghanistan with regard to religion, history, and geography. He said: We cannot remain indifferent toward a country with these views. The president said the Islamic Republic of Iran has the duty to support the world Muslims' struggle against cruel and oppressive regimes and supports popular movements throughout the world against colonial and oppressive regimes. One cannot find any country like Iran which has been so firm and steadfast with regard to the issue of Afghanistan. The president commented on the tremendous pressures of international politics and propaganda against the innocent people of Afghanistan and said: Throughout the world they have tried very hard to question the struggles of the Afghan people. They have tried to label as terrorists the combatant groups in Afghanistan and the people supporting them who are putting up resistance. But in international bodies we always insist that those who are facing the imposed regime in Afghanistan today are not a special group of people, but rather the entire Afghan people. When the people of a country are opposed to a regime, it is treasonous to call that regime progressive and revolutionary and to call the people, with all their glory, terrorists. The world's political culture cannot possibly accept this. With such a glorious resistance, the world's revolutionary culture will think of the Afghan people as a revolutionary people and will think of the regime in Afghanistan as an imposed one. The president added: The fact that one-fourth of the people of Afghanistan live outside the country shows that these people are not willing to tolerate the regime that is governing it. This is a struggle by an entire people against that regime -- a regime which cannot continue its existence without relying on the military might of a foreign power.

Mr Khamene'i then said the Government of Iran supports the Muslim people of Afghanistan to the point that Iran has been willing to lose some points on the international arena. He said: The world propaganda machines have tried to force Iran out of the scene by misquoting some of its officials and printing some baseless things in order to poison world public opinion with regard to the Islamic revolution in Iran and the great struggle of the Afghan people. But we hold no value for these rumors spread by organizations which disseminate lies. We have not defined a specific formula for the future of Afghanistan, but we are in favor of seeing victory for the Afghan people's struggle and the establishment of Islamic rule in that country. We oppose all plots against the Islamic movement and struggle. We want the people of Afghanistan to have their comforts, their dignity, and their happiness. We shall try to help the people of Afghanistan to achieve this and we are willing to cooperate with them. However, it is the Afghan people alone who should consider the future of Afghanistan. They should decide the type of regime that will govern them in the future. Of course, we strongly believe that with the faith of the people of Afghanistan in Islam and their belief in the Koran, they will choose an Islamic regime. The present struggle of the Afghan people throughout the country is a struggle for Islam; the struggle of those groups that are active with an un-Islamic goal is totally futile. The president reiterated that the fate of the Afghan people must be determined by the people themselves and that no other government must play the role of big brother for these people. In any negotiations dealing with the future of the Afghan people, the real representatives of the Afghan people must be present. The ulema and the wise men and the chosen groups and elements must organize the people of Afghanistan and must strengthen their Islamic ideals.

Mr Khamene'i talked about the need for unity among the groups fighting in Afghanistan against the regime in Kabul and said: The Shi'ite and Sunni combatants in Afghanistan must join hands and cooperate with one another, otherwise they will not be able to carry out their roles properly and will be dealt blows. The fighters of Afghanistan must be good examples of Islamic revolutionaries and must follow a policy of neither East nor West. He said: To come to terms and compromise with one faction is as ugly and unacceptable as compromise with another faction. A revolutionary can only be called a revolutionary when he is independent. If he is dependent on this or that, he is no longer a resistance fighter. He then becomes an opportunist and political. There is no need to compromise with one's enemy to defeat another enemy, especially when in most cases the two enemies are hand-in-hand. You are only effective against your current enemy when the people of the world know that you are not dependent on anyone and that you are free and independent. This is why the principle of neither East nor West and independence from both superpowers should be observed carefully and you must move in the straight path of Islam.